



Selected Scripts

March 7th, 2015



#10

Life of Shikumen

Written by Daisy Zhu

LETTER OF INTENTION

In recent years, with the increasing globalization of Shanghai, more and more young people went abroad, so the olds, who could only live in old, small houses alone in Shanghai. However, they still enjoy themselves, because they love their children, love their friends, love their houses, they have Shanghai, the city they built their entire lives around.

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An OLD WOMAN, about 50-year-old, widowed, buddhist, old but smart, smily, clean and tidy. An OLD MAN, about 55-year-old, widowed, buddhist, old, tall, spunky, healthy, thin.

1. INT. - EXT. SHIKUMEN - SUNRISE

Unremitting drizzle in the lane.

CHILD (V.O.)

Raining, Closing, Kids let's have a
meeting! [Shanghainese folk song]

A cat meows as its tail retreats behind the gray wall.

2. INT. - OLD WOMAN' S HOME - MORNING

OLD WOMAN puts a cat in the basket, but the cat goes on crying and breaking out from basket. OLD WOMAN feels strange, she lifts the cat, looks carefully, and suddenly finds this is not her cat. So OLD WOMAN holds the cat, puts on her walking shoes, takes an umbrella goes downstairs hastily without locking the door.

3. INT. - OLD MAN' S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Cat springs out of OLD MAN'S arms, cries loudly and runs around OLD MAN' s home, makes it a mess. OLD MAN finds that this is not his cat, he catches the cat comically, and finally takes it in arms. Then puts on walking shoes, goes downstairs hastily without locking the door.

4. EXT. - STREET - CONTINUOUS

OLD WOMAN walks on the street holding the cat.
OLD MAN walks on the street holding the cat.

[Screen is divided into two parts for both characters]

5. INT. - OLD WOMAN'S HOME - SUNRISE

Old Woman wakes up, dresses up, rinses mouth, washes face, combs hair, burns some incense to the portrait of her dead husband with peaceful and staid face. Opens the window, looks down, sees rain outside. Begins to hum an old song. Feeds her cat. Then puts on her high-heeled shoes, takes the umbrella opens the door, locks the door, double checks, goes downstairs gracefully.

6. INT. - OLD MAN'S HOME - SUNRISE

Old Man wakes up, dresses up, rinses mouth, washes face, combs hair, wipes the portrait of her dead wife with peaceful and staid face. He feeds his cat. Turns on the television, which is always set to Shanghai News. Goes to the kitchen, takes out yesterday's leftovers, cabbage, fish, tofu and a bowl of rice, puts them all in hot water in the stockpot, stirs until it boils. He has breakfast, and then takes out his Erhu and plays "ErHuYingYue" to his cat. After that, he takes an umbrella, a plastic bag, and goes downstairs haltingly.

7. INT. - LOCAL TEAHOUSE CALLED "CHA CAN TING" - MORNING

OLD WOMAN walks in. Her three friends sitting around the table greet enthusiastically. OLD WOMAN and friends chat and eat breakfast in the b.g. After breakfast, OLD WOMAN goes out of the restaurant with friends and says goodbye to each other.

8. EXT. - VEGETABLE MARKET - CONTINUOUS

Rain stopped. OLD WOMAN buys some vegetable, bargains with peddlers. Asks for more free scallions. (OLD MAN appears in this scene passes without any contact).
OLD WOMAN strolls back home.

9. EXT. - VEGETABLE MARKET - SIMULTANEOUS AS PREVIOUS

OLD MAN buys the vegetable silently, without bargaining. (OLD WOMAN appears in this scene).

OLD MAN strolls back to home.

10. EXT. - LANE - MORNING

On the way home, OLD WOMAN meets some of her neighbours, and has a small talk with them.

OLD WOMAN

How are you!

NEIGHBOR

How are you! Have you eaten?

OLD WOMAN

Not yet. I'm going to cook. Look, I've got cabbages, cucumbers, fish...

11. EXT. - PARK - MORNING

On the way home, OLD MAN passes a park, sees five or six people standing around a table, two old people are playing Chinese chess. OLD MAN walks towards them, watches the chess game, and, clearly interested in one of the players, challenges him to a match.

12. INT. - OLD WOMAN'S HOME - LUNCH TIME

The sun is coming out. OLD WOMAN turns on the television, prepares lunch. Then she has lunch. After lunch, OLD WOMAN sits and basks on the balcony, turns on the radio, listens to her favorite Shanghai opera BiLuoHuangQuan and knits a sweater. Then, she gradually dozes off.

13. INT.- OLD MAN'S HOME - LUNCH TIME

OLD MAN turns on the television, prepares lunch and has lunch. After lunch, OLD MAN sits and basks on the balcony, puts on his reading spectacles, reads the newspaper Shanghai daily. Then gradually dozes off.

14. INT. - OLD WOMAN'S HOME - AFTERNOON

OLD WOMAN wakes up. Calls three of her neighbors, invites them to play Mahjong in her house... three neighbors arrive, OLD WOMAN plays Mahjong with them, while talking about their families...

NEIGHBOR

I hear your son's gone abroad. Such a promising lad!

OLD WOMAN

(Speaks proudly)

Oh not at all... I just want him to give me a big, chubby grandson as soon as possible!

NEIGHBOR laughs.

NEIGHBOR

You live alone now? That's sad... (Sigh)

OLD WOMAN

It's okay, I guess. The same things to do every day. Nothing special.

About two hours later, the neighbors leave OLD WOMAN's home.

15. INT. - OLD WOMAN'S HOME - EVENING

OLD WOMAN heats up the lunch leftovers, and she has dinner. After dinner, OLD WOMAN puts on walking shoes and goes out.

16. INT. - OLD MAN'S HOME - EVENING

OLD MAN wakes up. Continues to read newspaper to the last page. Then stands up, takes broom, cleans the house. OLD MAN heats up the lunch leftovers, and has dinner. After dinner, OLD MAN goes out.

17. EXT. - PARK - SUNSET

OLD WOMAN goes to the park and dances with her friends. (OLD MAN appears in this scene).

18. EXT. - PARK - SIMULTANEOUS AS PREVIOUS

OLD MAN goes to the park, and walks around. (OLD WOMAN appears in this scene).

19. INT. - OLD WOMAN'S HOME - NIGHT

OLD WOMAN goes back to home. Turns on the television, turns the volume up, then takes a shower. After that, OLD WOMAN takes her cat in her arms, watches the TV program "LaoNiangJiu" while murmuring to her cat... OLD WOMAN's eyes draw straws, so she turns off the TV, puts cat in its basket, turns off the light, and goes to bed slowly.

20. INT. - OLD MAN'S HOME - NIGHT

OLD MAN goes back to home, takes a shower, and goes to bed. He puts on his glasses and reads a book about chess... He turns off the light and falls asleep.

21. INT. - OLD WOMAN'S HOME - NEXT MORNING BEFORE SUNRISE

Old Woman wakes up... hums an old song "Xiangsihepan". She opens the window, looks down, sees dense fog outside, puts on walking shoes, opens the door, locks the door, double checks, go downstairs, and her cat follows her.

22. INT. - OLD MAN'S HOME - SAME

OLD MAN wakes up... puts on walk shoes, holds his Erhu, opens the door, locks the door, goes downstairs. His cat follows him.

23. EXT. - THE BUND - CONTINUOUS

OLD WOMAN walks along the Bund while singing an old song "XiangSiHePan". Then OLD WOMAN meets OLD MAN.

24. EXT. - THE BUND - CONTINUOUS

OLD MAN holds the Erhu, walks along the Bund while playing an old song "XiangSiHePan". Then OLD MAN meets OLD WOMAN.

[Two past scenes combined into one scene]

25. EXT. - THE BUND - CONTINUOUS

OLD WOMAN and OLD MAN meet. They stop singing or playing the Erhu, but gaze on each other fixedly for a while. Suddenly, OLD MAN begins to play "XiangSiHePan", and OLD WOMAN begins to sing this song exactly the same time... the two cats walk around them. After this song, they scoop their cats up in their arms, smile and says good-bye to each other.

[Screen is divided into two parts for both characters]

26. PLAYBACK OF SCENE 4 WITH THE OLD WOMAN AND THE OLD MAN
HOLDING THEIR CATS IN SPLIT SCREEN - NEXT DAY

27. EXT. - THE BUND - SUN COMING OUT

OLD MAN goes to the place where he met OLD WOMAN before. Then OLD MAN sees OLD WOMAN is right in front and waiting for him, so he walks towards her quickly.

28. EXT. - THE BUND - CONTINUOUS

OLD WOMAN goes to the place where she met OLD MAN before. Then OLD WOMAN sees OLD MAN is right in front, walks towards her, so OLD WOMAN stops, stands waiting for OLD MAN.

[Two past scenes combined into one scene]

29. EXT. - THE BUND - CONTINUOUS

OLD WOMAN and OLD MAN hold the cats, face to face.

OLD MAN

Your cat is so naughty!

OLD WOMAN

Isn't yours naughty too?

Both of them laugh.

OLD WOMAN and OLD MAN sit on a bench near each other, looking at the sunrise. Through their shadows, two cats in front of them snuggle up to each other serenely.

#9

The Music Box

Written by Ju Yin (Melody) Chen

LETTER OF INTENTION

This is a love story set in Tian Zi Fang, a place that possesses contrasting traditional and modern aspects of Shanghai. I believe the location has a charm itself and some small shops there are really romantic. It being a tourist attraction makes the setting seem more international.

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All the dialogues are in Chinese.

1. EXT. - TIAN ZI FANG - DAY

WIDE ANGLE; A shopping street set within Tai Kang Rd. TIAN ZI FANG of Shanghai.

HAND-HELD CAMERA: Fast JUMP CUTS of shops, crowds, noisy streets, full of people talking, bargaining, eating street food.

2. INT. - A SMALL SHOP - DAY

A BOY, around 18 years old, sits in front of a table with his arms crossed on the table and his head laying on them. He looks at the spinning figure on the playing music box in front of him, sad.

MUSIC of the music box playing in the b.g.

BOY (V.O.)
It's the 372nd day since she left...

CLOSE ON the music box in the foreground. Music slowly fades away.

FADE TO BLACK.

3. INT. - THE SMALL SHOP - DAY

The door opens and the chimes on the door rings.

A GIRL in uniform stocks the shelves of the shop. Turns around after hearing the chime ring, smiles at the entering BOY.

GIRL
Welcome!

BOY awkwardly smiles and walks around the shop, looking at the products on display. Stops in front of a music box and carefully examines it. GIRL looks over the shoulder of BOY and nods slowly while introducing the product.

GIRL
Ah! This. This is our newest product. Try turning the handle.

Boy continues to examine the music box, and slowly turns the handle. Stops turning after a few turns and the music box starts to play music. The GIRL smiles and continues speaking as the music begins to slow down.

GIRL
It's beautiful isn't it? Try this one too.
It's my favorite.

GIRL hands over an intricately decorated music box to the BOY and the BOY turns the handle. Music starts to play.

GIRL
(Curiously)
So, do you like it?

BOY
Yeah.

MOBILE PHONE ALARM RINGS and BOY looks down at his phone and is surprised after seeing the time.

BOY
(To himself)
What? So late already?

Turns to the GIRL.

BOY (CONT'D)
Sorry, I spent so much time in the shop
and did not purchase anything... But I must
go now.

GIRL
Don't worry, stop by again!
(Chuckles)
I have nothing interesting to do here on
my own anyway.

BOY smiles and runs out the shop.

GIRL
Thank you for coming!

BOY looks back at the GIRL in the shop from the window one last time before running away.

FADE TO BLACK.

4. EXT. - A SMALL SHOP - DAY

BOY walks down the street and stops in front of the shop.
Pushes the door open and enters.

5. INT. - A SMALL SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The door opens and the chimes on the door rings. BOY enters.

GIRL in uniform cleaning shelves. Turns around after hearing the chime ring.

GIRL

Welcome!

Realizes that he is the same boy who visited yesterday, smiles happily.

GIRL

You came again. I have a lot to do today;
can you help me if you have time?

BOY nods and helps the GIRL. BOY carries boxes of products and puts it on the floor, then hands the items in the boxes to the GIRL. GIRL takes the items from the boy and stacks them on the shelf.

6. INT. - A SMALL SHOP - DAY

Fast JUMP CUTS. Door opens, chimes ring, and BOY enters. GIRL is happy when she sees the BOY, runs towards him and hands him a list of things to do. They work, put items on the shelves. They laugh and play around while working.

BOY (V.O.)

I go to the shop everyday. Sometimes we
stock shelves, sometimes we clean up. Each
day we spend together, we are having a lot
of fun. Seeing her smile is worth it, no
matter how tired I feel.

Repeats several times. BOY looks at GIRL as she works, clearly in love, and this becomes more and more obvious as time goes by. Number of boxes decrease as days go by.

7. INT. - A SMALL SHOP - NIGHT

BOY puts away the last box and all the work is complete.

GIRL
Thank you for helping me. The work is so much more productive. I'm so glad that there is someone who can come talk with me while I work.

She hugs the BOY, and suddenly realizes something.

GIRL
Turn around. Let's play a game before it's time to go

BOY is puzzled.

GIRL (CONT'D)
(Hurries)
Just turn.

GIRL turns the BOY around so his back is facing her.
Slowly TRACES "交往吧" on the back of the BOY with her finger.

GIRL (V.O.)
Be (Beat) with (Beat) me.

BOY
Can you write again? I don't know...

GIRL
Never mind.
(Disappointed)
It's not important anyways.

GIRL guides BOY out of the shop by lightly pushing him in the back.

8. EXT. - A SMALL SHOP - CONTINUOUS

GIRL and BOY stand face to face in front of the shop.

GIRL
Ok, this is it..
(Disappointed)
Good Night.

GIRL walks away and BOY stands there watching her leave.

9. EXT. - A SMALL SHOP - DAY

BOY looks through the window of the shop as usual, but notices that the GIRL is not in it and sees a SHOP KEEPER wearing the same uniform working. He pushes the door open and enters the shop.

10. INT. - A SMALL SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Door flies open and the Chimes ring. BOY dashes in.

BOY

(Worried)

Who are you? Where is the girl?

SHOP KEEPER

I'm the owner of this shop. The girl is going to university in the US, she is here temporarily to make some money for her tuition fee. Didn't she tell you?

(A Beat)

Oh right!

He hands him a letter.

SHOP KEEPER (CONT'D)

She asked me to give you the letter. She just left the shop, not long ago. If you go now, you can still catch her.

BOY charges out the shop.

11. EXT. - STREETS OF TIAN ZI FANG - CONTINUOUS

BOY runs, pushing people out of the way so he could get through quick enough. Tears coming out from BOY's eyes.

GIRL (V.O.)

Thank you for letting me know what being loved feels like. I had the time of my life. The music box is my present for you. Hope we can meet again. I love you.

Slows down and finally stops running.

12. INT. - A SMALL SHOP - DAY

The BOY is sitting in front of a table with arms folded on the table and laying his head on them. He looks at the spinning figure on the playing music box in front of him, sad.

[Same scene as the one in the beginning of the story.]

Music of the music box playing in the b.g.

BOY (V.O.)

It's the 372nd day since she left. I
started to work in the shop soon after she
left.

Door opens, chimes ring, a customer enters but we cannot see her face.

CLOSE ON BOY's face, eyes wide open, shocked, pauses for a beat, smile widely.

BOY

Welcome!

#8

The 10th Location

Written by Alexandria Lim

LETTER OF INTENTION

A Shanghainese man meets a foreign woman who dislikes Shanghai, but he tries to change her mind by taking her to 10 locations around Shanghai, showing her the city in a perspective different from the mainstream. This short film script focuses on the 10th location, showing a part of Shanghai that is not usually shown, the nature in Shanghai. The idea is to depict two kinds of love: the beginning of love between people of different cultures, as well as love between people and the city. This is a story close to heart as I, like the girl, had moved to Shanghai despising the very idea of having to stay in any place in China, and I'm also currently in an intercultural relationship. I believe that the film industry has focused too much on the industrial/economic part of Shanghai, and has neglected to show the actual beauty of this city, so I have written this script with the hope to show Shanghai in a different light.

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1. INT. - BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

CLOSE UP on a cell phone on a bed-side table. It's ringing. On the screen, the caller I.D. shows "JACK HAN".

EMMA PIERCE is lying face-down across her bed sleeping. She groans, and blindly reaches out to grab her phone. She picks it up, hits the answer button without looking, and puts it to her ear.

EMMA PIERCE
(Groggy and annoyed)
Hello?

JACK HAN
Good morning, Emma.

Emma immediately sits up, her eyes wide open in shock.

EMMA PIERCE
Jack? Why are you calling me at...

Emma briefly looks at her phone.

EMMA PIERCE
...6 in the morning?!

JACK HAN
You need to get dressed quickly.
There's a place I'd like to show you.

EMMA PIERCE
Look, I know you've made it your job
to make sure I love Shanghai, but
waking me up at 6 in the goddamn
morning is not going to achieve that.

Emma flops back onto the bed, and closes her eyes.

EMMA PIERCE
There's no way I'm going. Goodbye.

JACK HAN
I'm outside your house.

Emma's eyes shoot wide open again.

EMMA PIERCE
What?!

Emma jumps out of her bed, and peeks out her window. There is a car outside with a man on his phone leaning against it. Emma turns her back to the wall, knocking her head back against it. She groans again.

EMMA PIERCE
Goddammit, Jack.

Emma sighs.

EMMA PIERCE
I'll be out in 10 minutes.

Emma hangs up.

2. EXT. - CENTURY PARK - MORNING

Jack and Emma are walking side by side down a long path lined with trees. There aren't any other people around.

Jack's eyes shut for a moment as he takes in a deep breath, breathing the wonderful scent of morning air mixed with the smell of nature. He lets out a deep sigh.

Emma subconsciously responds with a light sigh. The two look at each other, and then break out in laughter. As the two begin to calm down, Emma speaks.

EMMA PIERCE
I can't believe you made me wake up
so early.

JACK HAN
Is this worth it?

Emma turns to look at Jack for a moment. Jack looks back at her, a gentle expression adorned upon his face. Emma looks back to the front again, before talking.

EMMA PIERCE
Maybe.

Jack chuckles at her answer, and looks back to the front, too.

JACK HAN
I find the mornings here most
beautiful. The sounds, the smells,
the sights... And there aren't any
people around. It's just you and
nature. Not many places in Shanghai

where you can find such a... quiet...
peaceful setting.

EMMA PIERCE

Mmm... It is rather breathtaking.

Jack looks back at Emma again.

CLOSE UP on Jack opening his mouth, as if to talk, but then he
shakes his head, and looks forward again.

EMMA PIERCE

So are we just walking to nowhere
land, or do you have a secret hideout
somewhere?

JACK HAN

We're heading somewhere. Trust me...
I'm sure you'll love it.

Jack turns, taking Emma's hand as he moves, and pulls her off
the path with him. They walk through the line of trees,
entering an almost forest-like area.

EMMA PIERCE

Wait, where are we going?

Jack just turns to Emma and grins.

JACK HAN

Just trust me.

EMMA PIERCE

Are we even allowed to do this?

Ignoring Emma's question, Jack continues navigating a path
through the trees. Soon, Jack's slows down. He pulls Emma to
the edge of the tree line.

Emma gasps, completely dazzled by the sight that meets her
eyes. In front of her is a part of the river running through
Century Park. This part of the river is framed with trees,
creating a sense of seclusion and privacy.

The sun is shining perfectly through the trees, illuminating
the area, and giving the water a slight sparkle.

EMMA PIERCE

(Barely audible whisper)
It's beautiful...

Jack stands to the side, his eyes never leaving Emma's face. He watches her beauty as she takes in the beauty of the river, and the surrounding nature. Still mesmerized, Emma takes a few steps towards the river, stepping out of the tree line. She looks around. Jack takes a few steps himself, following Emma.

EMMA PIERCE

(Stunned)

I didn't know Shanghai had a place
like this...

Emma turns back to Jack. Both stand facing each other with the river behind them.

JACK HAN

(Softly)

Is this worth it?

Pause. Emma looks into Jack's eyes, as if searching for something.

EMMA PIERCE

Why did you bring me here?

Jack steps closer to Emma. He lifts a hand and runs the back of his fingers along her cheek.

JACK HAN

This is the last place.

Emma looks into Jack's eyes, still a bit dazed and confused by his words.

EMMA PIERCE

The last place?

JACK HAN

This is location number 10. I saved
the best for last.

Recognition seeps into her eyes.

EMMA PIERCE

Our agreement...

Jack rests his hand against her cheek, and gently brushes his thumb over it.

JACK HAN

I had the assignment to show you the
beauty of Shanghai... I was supposed to
make you fall in love with this city...

JACK HAN (CONT'D)
But I think I may just have fallen in
love myself...

Jack looks directly into Emma's eyes. Emma takes in a breath.

JACK HAN
I'm in love with you, Emma Pierce.

They stare at each other for a moment longer, before they both lean in for a kiss, Emma's eyes fluttering close.

Moments later, they let up. Emma opens her eyes, looking right into Jack's hooded ones. Jack strokes his thumb over her cheek again.

JACK HAN (in Chinese)
I love you.

Emma smiles.

EMMA PIERCE (in Chinese)
I love you, Jack.

Jack smiles back.

EMMA PIERCE
Who would've thought...

Emma reaches her own hand to rest against Jack's face.

JACK HAN
Thought...?

EMMA PIERCE
What are the odds that I, a person
who once despised the thought of
living in such a populous area, would
in fact meet a man in such a place...
One who'd show me the hidden beauties
amidst the looming buildings and
swarming crowds... One who'd help me
fall in love not only with the city,
but also find love itself in such a
place...

JACK HAN
I'm glad I met you... And I'm glad I
was able to change your mind.

They smile at each other, and then both lean in for an embrace.

Emma rests her head on his shoulder, and closes her eyes. Jack lightly presses a kiss to the side of her head, then closes his eyes, too. A moment of comfortable silence pass between them, then Emma speaks again.

EMMA PIERCE

Oh, and Jack?

Jack nuzzles Emma's neck a little.

JACK HAN

Hmm?

Emma's smirk goes unnoticed by Jack. She moves her hands to rest against his chest, then shoves him hard. He stumbles back, but falls into the water right behind him. He shrieks as he falls, but as soon as he's upright, he shoots a glare at the now laughing Emma.

Emma calms down, and walks up to the edge. She crouches down, and grins at the still glaring Jack.

EMMA PIERCE

Guess what?

JACK HAN

What?

Emma's grin widens.

EMMA PIERCE

This is definitely worth it.

Jack splashes water at Emma.

#7

Hong Shao Rou

Written by Amy Hu

LETTER OF INTENTION

The story is about a girl YUN comes to Shanghai to find her father. Though she failed to find him, she encounters a hospitable couple. This film is featuring the "Longtang" and Shanghai dishes. Also, I want to be an advocate of the hospitability of Shanghainese people, and the wholeness and warmness of families.

TOO LONG FOR NOW

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1. BLACK WITH SUBTITLES

YUN (V.O.)(in Chinese)
I used to think that life is a jerk. `A
jerk who robs every piece of happiness
from my world.

YUN (V.O.)(in Chinese)
2014/12/15, 12:43, I finally arrived in
this city, Shanghai. The city where he is.

FADE IN:

2. EXT. - ENTRANCE OF THE METRO STATION - DAY

YUN stands in the crowd in front of the entrance.

CLOSE ON:

THE EYES TO THE SUN - YUN focuses her eyes on the sun -
LIU walks towards YUN.

LIU (in Shanghainese)
Hey, young lady. Do you need a ride?

YUN (in Chinese)
Sorry?

LIU (in Chinese)
You look like a guest to Shanghai. I can
offer you a cheaper price if you want me
to drive you to somewhere on my motorcycle.

YUN (in Chinese)
Do you know this place?

CLOSE ON the note with an address on it in YUN's hand.

LIU (in Chinese)
Of course! Only 20 Yuan, OK?

YUN (in Chinese)
Whatever... Just drive me there.

LIU (in Chinese)
OK. Get on, girl! Let's go!

FADE TO:

3. EXT. - HUAIHAI ROAD - DAY

LIU (in Chinese)
Here we are. I think this is the place you
are looking for.

YUN (in Chinese)
Ok. Thank you. I'm coming back and I'll
need you to take me somewhere else. Can
you wait for a while?

LIU smiling at YUN and takes out a cigarette and lights it up.

LIU (in Chinese)
Sure.

YUN comes back and gets on the motorcycle.

LIU (in Chinese)
Did you find him or her?

YUN (in Chinese)
Just go to the next place. Thank you.

LIU (in Chinese)
Everything has its own reason. You know.

YUN shows LIU the address and doesn't replies to him. LIU
starts the motorcycle and stops talking.

FADE TO BLACK

4. EXT. - MADANG ROAD - DAY

YUN comes back and gets on the motorcycle. LIU finishes his
cigarette, and gets back on the motorcycle.

CUT TO: LIU turning his face towards YUN.

LIU (in Chinese)
Oh, young lady. You didn't find him here
either? So what's your next destination?

CLOSE ON YUN, head down, on the verge of tears. She comes up
with another address and shows it to LIU.

CLOSE ON LIU looking at YUN as he understands that YUN is having a problem.

LIU (in Chinese)
Let me see. OK, that's not far away.

YUN (in Chinese)
Thank you.

TIGHT ON YUN's face.

YUN (V.O.)(in Chinese)
13:28, it's December now. Shanghai is so cold. Colder than any other cities I've been to.

LIU (in Chinese)
Shanghai is a big city. You know, if somebody doesn't want anybody to find him, then, he will stay hidden forever.
(A Beat)
I mean... Miracles are rare.

YUN doesn't react.

5. EXT. - MADANG ROAD — DAY

LIU and YUN arrive at the third place. YUN fails again. She gets back on the motorcycle and shows LIU another address. LIU starts the motorcycle.

LIU (in Chinese)
You look sad.

YUN (in Chinese)
I'm not sad.

LIU (in Chinese)
You know. If two people are meant to be together, the universe cannot separate them. Like me and my wife. She is a very good magician! She can cook Hong Shao Rou with magic.

YUN (in Chinese)
Oh.

LIU (in Chinese)
But if they aren't, the universe can't do
anything to help.

YUN doesn't speak a word. She starts to cry.

LIU and his wife QIN meet each other accidentally on the street.
LIU stops the motorcycle.

LIU (in Shanghainese)
Hey Darling! Where are you going?

QIN (in Shanghainese)
Wow! I'm preparing for our dinner. I need
some sauces for our Hong Shao Rou!

LIU (in Shanghainese)
I love it!

QIN (in Shanghainese)
Oh! Why is that girl crying? What did you
do to her?

YUN (in Chinese)
I'm fine, really.

QIN (in Shanghainese)
I see. I know what you need. You need food.
You need delicious food. Girl. Let me cook
you some.

YUN (in Chinese)
OK... But I'm fine.

QIN (in Shanghainese)
It's getting dark now. You are tired and
upset. Food has magic. Food can ease your
pain! Come with me, please!

YUN hesitates and sighs. She is really desperate.

YUN (in Chinese)
OK...

QIN (in Shanghainese)
Fine! Let's go!

QIN gets on the motorcycle, with the other two. LIU starts the motorcycle.

FADE TO BLACK

6. EXT. - IN FRONT OF LIU'S HOME ON MADANG ROAD - DUSK

The motorcycle slowly stops on Madang Road.

LIU (in Chinese)
Here we are. My wife will prepare soon.
Just don't worry about anything for a
while. Have fun!

CLOSE ON YUN smiling at LIU as saying yes.

CUT TO:

7. INT. - LIU'S HOME - DUSK

QIN opens door. She looks very excited. Other people are in the dining room, making themselves comfortable, finding seats.

QIN (in Shanghainese)
Oh. I forgot to introduce myself. My name
is Qin.

YUN (in Chinese)
My name's Yun.

QIN is busy setting the table. YUN and LIU sit down.

QIN (in Chinese)
I'm going to finish the last dish. Please
wait here for a while. I hope you will
like the food.

QIN rushes into the kitchen and brings back dishes.

CLOSE ON the food on the table.

YUN (in Chinese)
Wow, they really look... delicious.

LIU (in Chinese)
I've told you so. She used to be a cook at
Jinjiang Restaurant.

QIN (in Chinese)
Whatever, I'm only good at cooking
Shanghainese food. Have you ever tried it?

QIN is smiling at YUN.

YUN (in Chinese)
Not really. It's my very first time
visiting Shanghai.

QIN (in Chinese)
What for?

YUN hesitates for a moment.

YUN (in Chinese)
I am looking for one of the most important
person in my life.

QIN (in Chinese)
Did you find him or her?

LIU is staring at his wife for asking an awkward question.

QIN (in Chinese)
Oh sorry! I shouldn't ask that.

YUN (in Chinese)
It's OK. I've given up.

QIN (in Chinese)
Oh, don't say that. Well, let's eat first.
I believe food will make you happier.

YUN (in Chinese)
Thank you.

QIN (in Chinese)
By the way, how come you speak
Shanghainese? You just said it's your
first time in Shanghai.

YUN (in Chinese)
Oh... I learned it with my father when I was
very young. He's Shanghainese.

QIN (in Chinese)
Did you come here with your father?

YUN (in Chinese)
No... I don't know where he is now. Maybe in Shanghai.

QIN (in Chinese)
Oh, I see...

YUN, LIU and QIN are having dinner.

YUN (in Chinese)
Scrumptious! I love Shanghainese food!

QIN (in Chinese)
Thank you so much. Let me tell you something. We love sauces. I mean very thick sauces. Soy sauce and sugar! The best spices ever!

QIN points at the dishes and introduces their names.

QIN (in Chinese)
This is LIU's favorite. Hong Shao Rou. That's Si Xi Kao Fu. That's Xiang Bao Shan Si. There's also Tang Cu Pai Gu. You know, foods have magic. Hong Shao Rou can ease your pain because it's sweet.

YUN (in Chinese)
That Hong Shao Rou is indeed my favorite. When did you start to cook?

QIN (in Chinese)
I can't remember. I guess my mom taught me, when I was very young.

LIU (in Chinese)
I remember. I was 10, and you were 9. I told you if you can cook I'll make you my wife.

QIN (in Chinese)
Oh, darling. That's because you always loved food. I want you to be happy.

YUN (in Chinese)
Wait, how long have you known each other?

QIN (in Chinese)
More than 30 years. We have been living in
Huaihai road since our birth.

YUN (in Chinese)
That's quite romantic. Few couples can
achieve that you know.

QIN (in Chinese)
He was a nice boy and he is a kind man now.

LIU (in Chinese)
Yep, but do you remember us playing
together? You used to cry because you lost
the game every time.

FLASHBACK TO:

8. EXT. - HUAIHAI ROAD - DUSK (PAST, IN BLACK AND WHITE)

Little QIN is crying because she lost the game and little LIU
is cheering her up.

CROSSFADE TO:

9. INT. - LIU'S HOME - EVENING (TODAY)

QIN (in Chinese)
Oh, I wouldn't forget that. I swore that I
would marry because you are the only one
who made me happy.

YUN (in Chinese)
That's so sweet...

Silence. YUN seems to be crying.

LIU (in Chinese)
Are you crying?

YUN (in Chinese)
No, no, I'm not.

QIN (in Chinese)
Oh, dear. You're going to be fine.

YUN (in Chinese)
Yeah, I know. I'm just still a little bit upset.

QIN hugs YUN.

QIN (in Chinese)
Come here, dear, you look like my daughter.

YUN (in Chinese)
Where's your daughter?

QIN (in Chinese)
She's angry with us. She doesn't want to see us because we won't let her marry a guy.

LIU lights up a cigarette, picks up a photo of their family on the shelf and shows it to YUN.

LIU (in Chinese)
That stubborn girl is just like her mother.

QIN (in Chinese)
Come on. She's going to be fine. She's still a young lady just like YUN. As a mother, I believe both of them will be fine.

YUN (in Chinese)
Thank you...

Suddenly, QIN remembers something.

QIN (in Chinese)
Oh, YUN, do you want to learn the magic of Hong Shao Rou?

YUN (in Chinese)
Of course!

QIN (in Chinese)
OK! Follow me. Liu, please clean up!

LIU (in Chinese)
Oh, women.

LIU puts away his cigarette, gets up and starts cleaning.

FADE TO:

10. INT. - LIU'S HOME, KITCHEN - NIGHT

MONTAGE:

Pictures of QIN and YUN cooking, chatting, laughing happily.

FADE TO BLACK

11. INT. - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

QIN asks YUN to stay at their home for one night as LIU will drop her at the metro station tomorrow morning. YUN lights up the lamp and lies on the bed reviewing the recipe QIN gave to her.

YUN (V.O.)(in Chinese)
23:21, today is the worst and the best day
of my life. Life is such a jerk. It's
always playing with me.
(A Beat)
Hard to tell what kind of feeling it
exactly is. It feels warm like home.

YUN falls asleep. QIN comes into the room and covers YUN up.

QIN (in Shanghainese)
It's sad to lose someone important. Maybe
you won't find him, maybe you will. But
please be happy because you would want to
welcome him back with your brightest smile.
Good night, YUN.

QIN turns off the lamp. Lights off.

#6

Linger

Written by Sky Yao, Shirley Zhou & Alispog Rong

LETTER OF INTENTION

Linger in Chinese is pronounced as "Pai Huai", which the character "Huai" can be pronounced as both "Huai" and "Hui", resembling the name of the two main characters Shen Hui and Su Huai. The capital letters of their name both start with "SH", which represent the city of Shanghai. I insist to write a story about a piece of memory of Shanghai, because I think the sprite of the city remains from generation to generation despite on the change of time. Inside every single Shanghainese, is the sentimental and vulnerable side hidden behind his or her intensive emotion. Shen Hui is the representative of that group of people, as he couldn't control his feeling and falls deeply into the memories. In the movie, Su Huai will be seen as an concretization symbol of Shanghai, therefore Shen Hui's sentiment is more about his love to the city. As described in the opening and at the end of the story, we love, we linger, and that's the way we live in this city.

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1. - EXT. - HUNAN ROAD - 20 YEARS LATER

Shen hui, with a saxophone packed on his back, holding tightly to his jacket in wind, takes steps forward in wind.

CUT TO:

His leather shoes move forward slowly with hesitation and anticipation. His facial expression reveals contemplation. He stops at a tall building and looks up.

SHEN
Everything's changed.

On one side of the building, young Shen plays saxophone beside a ticket booth on the lawn outside the building.

DISSOLVE TO:

2. INT. THEATER - PRESENT - DAY

SU
Let's call it a day. Thank you guys.

It takes quite a while for Shen to pack his saxophone bag. While he is packing, his glances land on Su several times. Finally everyone's gone, leaving Su Huai and Shen alone.

SHEN
(Grimace)
How's my performance today?

SU
Good job.

SHEN
On performance day, let's play a song together, shall we?

Su shows a shallow smile but does not reply.

SHEN
Hey, is that considered a yes or something?

SU
I enjoy Paganini.

Su disappeared from the door.

3. -INT. REHEARSAL ROOM — PRESENT — LATE NIGHT

SHEN
Gosh... This is hard...

Shen stays late at the rehearsal room, tired. Su walks by the window. A smile shows up on her face.

4. - INT. THEATER STAGE — PRESENT — DAY

SU
Take heart, Shen, don't blow it.

SHEN
No worries. I won't.

Shen plays saxophone half a meter from Su playing a piano. During the performance, Shen tries hard to concentrate, but he cannot help leaning toward Su. The performance ends in thunderous applause.

5. INT. THEATER HALLWAY — PRESENT — DAY

SHEN
I said I wouldn't mess it up.

SU
(to the window)
It was a beautiful show.

SHEN
Apparently. Like the city; like you.

Su turned to meet the eyes of Shen.

SU
Is there a look of you in my eyes?

6. INT. — THEATER — PRESENT, A WEEK LATER — DAY

SU
It's time to go, guys. I got to clear up
this site. Thank you.

Once more, Shen deliberately packs his saxophone bag slowly.
When everybody's gone, he immediately invites Su to play a
song.

SHEN
It's been a week. Shall we play a song
together, again?

Su acquiesces. In peaceful music, both of them remain silent
like they've previously reached an agreement. The melody of
saxophone ceases in a sudden, leaving the sound of piano
hovering alone in the space. Shen puts his saxophone down.

SHEN
You know, Su... I really treasure our times
together. Will you...

A sudden burst of cough from Su cuts off Shen's words.

SU
Next time... please? I also enjoy that day.

Su hurried out of the room. In her hands covers a blood-tinted
handkerchief.

7. INT. SHEN'S ROOM — PRESENT, SAME DAY — NIGHT

Shen receives a parcel from the doorman of the theater. He opens the parcel at home. It was a vinyl disc.

(NARRATOR)

On the disc carved the name of the song, like Su's figure carved in Shen's mind.

8. EXT. HU NAN RD — 20YEARS LATER

SHEN

"You lit me up in the dark." I never know those words were the very last ones from Su.

9. INT. SU'S ROOM — PRESENT — NIGHT

Su stands on the windowsill, looking down at her bare feet and the vast scene of Shanghai city. Cars pass along those shimmering streetlights in a blurry sight. A second later, Su disappeared in the dark, leaving a pair of shoes by the windowsill. The curtain reaches out in the wind.

10. EXT. LAWN — 20YEARS LATER — DAY

On the lawn, Shen sits still on the bench, holding his saxophone tightly in his hands. He looks up with a sigh.

SHEN

For 20 years, I've been seeking your existence around this beautiful, beautiful city, but without result. You exist everywhere; you exist nowhere. Now I come to believe, that the city is you. You are the hidden beauty of the city, standing while time passing.

DISSOLVE TO:

Clips of Shanghai, then

CUT TO

Shen lingering along streets at night

(SUBTITLE)

You can't hold still the scenes that are forever progressing, as you can only retrospect those who are meant to leave. Time steals your young ages, and the original person. We look back, but can never go back. We take a one-way journey into this ever-evolving, ever-advancing city, with bravery, with an open heart, with unrequited love, and let time carry us to the end.

#5

Taxi Lee

Written by Derrie Kwan

LETTER OF INTENTION

Shanghai is internationally recognized as the city of commerce and a haven for high-end entertainment, but seldom do people notice how workers of the lower class live in this fast-paced metropolis. The main characters of the story are not affluent; however, they slowly work towards their ideal of a better lifestyle. The story portrays the power of family unity and love, accompanied by a touch of the unique taste of Shanghai's culture.

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1. EXT. - HUAIHAI ROAD - NIGHT

OLD LEE parks his taxi by the side of the street and gets off to smoke a cigarette. He is around 50 years old and wears a suit. He gets back on to the taxi after stamping out the bud of his cigarette.

2. INT. - TAXI - CONTINUOUS

BUSINESSMAN gets into the taxi.

BUSINESSMAN

(Angrily)

What is the matter today? Why are we stuck in a traffic jam?

OLD LEE looks at the BUSINESSMAN from his front mirror.

BUSINESSMAN

Gosh! I still have to get to my meeting! Why does this have to happen to me today, at this exact hour?

OLD LEE ignores the BUSINESSMAN.

ANGLE FROM WITHIN THE TAXI as OLD LEE continues to drive: various scenes of the Shanghai night with prominent skyscrapers, neon lights of Nanjing road, different hotels, and large billboards can be seen from OLD LEE's car.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

As a night shift taxi driver, I hear a lot of complaints. Everyone in this city has their own problems. Anyway, I take over the cab at 4:30pm and start business at 5. 5 to 6 is rush hour, and that means more business.

The next customer gets on, a MOM and a child. MOM is obviously annoyed.

MOM

I don't even understand your generation - will you stop playing with your phone? Listen to me.

Child ignores MOM.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

Oh yeah, I also have a son like that. Eyes glued to the computer screen all the time, I don't even know what he's up to anymore.

The taxi pulls up to OLD LEE's house. He locks his car and enters his apartment.

3. INT. - APARTMENT - MORNING

OLD LEE enters through the door, sets his phone on the table, and sees his SON still on the computer. LEE'S WIFE INTO FRAME.

OLD LEE

You're still up?

SON nods without looking at OLD LEE. LEE'S WIFE comes and takes OLD LEE's jacket.

OLD LEE (CONT'D)

Drove through the city without even one customer waving to me but what can I do? I still have to pay the bills.

LEE'S WIFE sighs. SON looks up from his screen for a second and diverts his attention to OLD LEE's phone on the table. OLD LEE looks at his SON and thinks to himself.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

My shy son is 25 now, it is time to get him a wife to take care of him. Since he hasn't given any thought into it, I guess it's up to an old man like me to help him.

4. EXT. - PEOPLE'S PARK, PEOPLE'S SQUARE - MORNING

It is very crowded with parents holding photos of their sons and daughters. Some parents raise their voices to attract attention to their children. This is the traditional Shanghainese location where parents help their children find blind dates. OLD LEE walks around to inspect each one carefully. He looks at the photo of a 23-year-old woman. ANGLE ON the photo only.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

She looks too snobby, I can't see her as my daughter-in-law.

Photo of another woman INTO FRAME. The holder is a man similar looking to OLD LEE, desperately looking for a spouse for his 35 year-old-daughter. He shakes the photo of his daughter vigorously in front of OLD LEE to capture his attention.

HOLDER

Hey brother, hey brother! Look at my daughter! I mean, I know she is a little old but she is an excellent cook. She also cleans terribly well and she'll definitely...

OLD LEE can no longer hear what HOLDER is saying as he thinks to himself.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

Nah, she is too old. I still want grandchildren. I guess I won't find any decent one today, I'll just have to test my luck next week.

OLD LEE walks off towards a less crowded area and finds a bench to sit down. He puts on his favorite sunglasses and looks around contemplatively. The sound of the television rises above all in replacement of the crowd in the park.

Sound carries onto the next scene and fades to black.

5. INT. - APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

LEE'S WIFE is watching the television and laughing mindlessly. OLD LEE is not paying attention to the TV show. SON is typing on computer and gets up to go get something. He comes out with a new phone.

SON

Dad, didn't you say that business was going down-down? I-I thought this might come in handy.

SON hands OLD LEE the new phone. OLD LEE inspects this new technology in his hands.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

What is this? An old man like me won't know how to use this thing! Don't waste your money!

SON

N-no, it's okay, I can teach you. So basically this is a taxi application and it can help y-you get m-more customers. You just need to...

The sound of his SON's instruction fades out as OLD LEE looks at his SON and smiles gratefully.

6. INT. - TAXI - NIGHT

Customers of different ages and nationalities enter and exit through OLD LEE's taxi as he works through his night shift. Everything looks the same as the scene 1. Except now, he has his new phone and the application is buzzing frequently with orders. The conversation of the customers in OLD LEE's taxi quiets down as OLD LEE thinks to himself.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

This thing is really coming in handy. That useless son of mine can finally contribute to this family a little.

OLD LEE can't help but to look at the buzzing phone and to smile contently. MONTAGE of previous scenes plays as OLD LEE thinks.

OLD LEE (V.O.)

Although I lead an ordinary life, I am content. I have found countless little aspects of my life that bring me joy and happiness. Shanghai is a city of tolerance — no matter who you are, of what class, you will find your place. Shanghai is my home. It's where I was born and where I will continue to stay. The city has been kind to me in ways that I could never have imagined. Through mediocrity I find something valuable — the importance of family.

MONTAGE stops. FADE TO BLACK.

OLD LEE (V.O.)
(Jokingly)
And I even know how to use an app at my
age!

Flashback to SCENE 3 from a different angle showing SON's perspective of working on the coding of the taxi application on his computer screen, revealing that his SON programmed it.

#4

Xiaomei

Written by Kyra Power

LETTER OF INTENTION

The purpose of this story is to show a young girl's love for art, and her relationship with her grand-mother. While intense and overbearing, her grand-mother ultimately loves Xiaomei and supports her. It takes place in an alley in the Jing'an residential area, which is a mix of old and modern Shanghai.

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All the dialogues are in Chinese.

1. EXT. - STREET IN JING'AN - DAY

The street has an alignment of three-story lane houses and small shops. Trees are planted on the sidewalk with scooters and bikes parked under them. It is a friendly and quiet part of Shanghai.

XIAOMEI, a Chinese girl around 15, walks home from school dragging her feet, and holding a piece of paper. She looks at the ground, obviously dreading something. She enters a lane, and approaches her home, which is a small apartment on the second floor.

2. INT. - XIAOMEI'S APARTMENT - DAY

It is somewhat cramped, but homey. The sounds of someone cooking in the kitchen can be heard. XIAOMEI drops her backpack on the floor and walks to the kitchen, where her GRANDMOTHER stands at the stove.

GRANDMOTHER

How was school today?

XIAOMEI looks down.

GRANDMOTHER

Xiaomei, how was school today?

XIAOMEI

Not good.

She gives the paper to her GRANDMOTHER who steps away from the stove, wipes her hands, takes it and reads it.

GRANDMOTHER

Is this true? You got the lowest score in mathematics?

XIAOMEI nods slowly.

GRANDMOTHER

Your parents are working so hard for you to go to school here, and this is how you repay them?

XIAOMEI

Grandmother, I know, but...



GRANDMOTHER
No. Go study before dinner.

XIAOMEI
I've been studying all day. It's Saturday.

GRANDMOTHER
So, you still have tonight and tomorrow to study.

XIAOMEI
I just can't.

GRANDMOTHER
(Cutting her off)
Enough. Go study, get your grade up and I won't tell your mom and dad about this.

XIAOMEI sighs and takes her backpack to her room. It is a small room, covered with drawings of people, places, and city landmarks. She sits down at her desk and pulls out her math test, which is covered in red. She begins to review it while her GRANDMOTHER can be heard cooking in the kitchen.

CUT TO:

3. INT. - KITCHEN - EVENING

A timer counts down forty-five minutes as something simmers on the stove. GRANDMOTHER is sitting at the table sleeping. XIAOMEI enters quietly leaning on the door.

XIAOMEI
(Whispering)
Grandmother?

No response. She tiptoes past her to a cabinet in the living area where she pulls out a notebook, an ink pen, and some watercolors. She puts on her coat and walks out of the apartment.

CUT TO:

4. EXT. - STREET- EVENING

The street is bustling with people coming home from work, buying groceries, and chatting.



XIAOMEI walks down the street, finds a small stool and sits down. She takes out her sketchpad a pen, and she begins to draw.

MONTAGE:

- A grandfather crouched down fixing his grandson's jacket collar on the street;
- The flower woman selling flowers to a young couple;
- A bike leaned against a telephone booth;
- A mechanic sitting, with a cigarette dangling from his mouth as he listens to the radio.

As she draws, she captures every moment, freezing life in its daily motion. She pulls out her watercolors, a small bottle of water, and starts to color them tastefully.

As she finishes each painting, she looks up to check the people that she drew, but they are all gone. Yet, her art has preserved them.

She dries each painting on a stool next to her, and as the last one dries she picks them up and walks back home.

5. INT. - XIAOMEI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

XIAOMEI steps back inside. The timer in the kitchen shows seven minutes left. She begins to put her art equipment away, but she pauses to look at her GRANDMOTHER, now softened by sleep. She opens her sketchpad to a fresh page and starts to draw her.

As XIAOMEI looks down intently, GRANDMOTHER's eyes flutter open. She sees XIAOMEI drawing her, smiles slightly to herself and closes her eyes again, keeping still.

XIAOMEI finishes her sketch and walks back into her room, adding the new drawings to the walls just as the timer in the kitchen goes off.

GRANDMOTHER
(Yelling from kitchen)
Xiaomei, dinner!

XIAOMEI enters the kitchen.

GRANDMOTHER

Set the table.

XIAOMEI nods, and begins to take bowls and plates out of a cabinet.

GRANDMOTHER

How are your maths going?

XIAOMEI

(Avoiding her Grandmother's eyes)
I'm getting better.

GRANDMOTHER

Really? I didn't realize there was so much trigonometry involved in drawing.

XIAOMEI marks a stop and blushes.

XIAOMEI

(Stammering slightly)
Grandmother, I - I-

GRANDMOTHER

Well it is only Saturday. You will study tomorrow.

XIAOMEI smiles slightly as they sit down at the table.

GRANDMOTHER

(Severely)
But no more lying. Or else I'll have to tell your parents.

XIAOMEI

Yes.

They begin to eat in silence as the camera moves out of the apartment window, and over the street bustling below.

#3

Wind And Literature Or The Art Of Life

Written by César Candelon

LETTER OF INTENTION

This story is about two teenagers discovering the "art of life". Their forced confrontation will give their existences the goal they never had. Through their both beloved author, Ba Jin, they will discover each other and finally fall in love. The whole film is a reflection on the reason of living and accepting who we are.

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1. EXT - GREEN AND SAFE'S SIDEWALK, SHANGHAI - DAY

A 15-16-year-old boy, PAOTR, is sitting at a table, reading the book *Family* by Ba Jin. He is surrounded by a few people at the other tables and seems to be waiting for somebody. We hear the *noise of the cars* on the street off screen. He puts the book in his back pocket, takes a drink from his cup and *exhales*.

2. EXT. - WULUMUQI LU - AT THE SAME TIME

A 15-16-year-old boy, ALEC, and a 15-16-year-old girl, CAILIN, are running on the sidewalk. A Chinese cyclist stops just in front of them, they bypass him. We still hear the *noise of cars*.

ALEC
(Turning to CAILIN)
Come on, hurry up! We're gonna be late!

They cross the street between the cars.

3. EXT. - GREEN AND SAFE'S SIDEWALK - AFTER A LITTLE WHILE

PAOTR is looking at a girl trying to calm her dog, we follow his eyes as he then focuses on a leaf being taken away *by the wind*.

ALEC (O.S.)
Hey man, what's up?

PAOTR turns his head to ALEC who sits at the table in front of him with CAILIN.

ALEC
(Pointing at Cailin)
That's Cailin. Cailin, Paotr. I don't think you ever met each other, did you?
(to Paotr) She's new in Shanghai.

CAILIN
No, we've never seen each other.
(To PAOTR)
Nice to meet you.

PAOTR and CAILIN look at each other furtively as we hear ALEC *speaking indistinctly*, almost in the background.

CLOSE UPS on details betraying their mutual interest and ending up on their eyes.

MATCH CUT TO:

Focus on an almond in a bowl on the table. ALEC stands up of his chair and looks at his phone.

ALEC

(Perfectly confident)

I'm terribly sorry, guys. I gotta go. I did not mean to hook you up that way, but I'll let you take it from here. I'm sure you've got plenty to discuss.

PAOTR and CAILIN both laugh.

PAOTR

(Acting cool)

I guess we will survive. I'm sure we will have a fascinating discussion with this young lady.

ALEC

Well, see you then.

PAOTR AND CAILIN

(Almost synchronized)

See you!

ALEC leaves the café and disappears.

PAOTR

Well, I guess you will have to bear me without his support for the next hour!

She laughs. He starts to look away. She keeps staring at him. He turns his head and looks at her, they both laugh.

PAOTR

Hum, well...

CAILIN

So... You're Alec's friend right?

PAOTR

Yeah that's right. We met last year actually. He really helped me to get settled... And you just arrived this year, didn't you?

CAILIN

Yeah. I came here with my brothers and my father.

PAOTR

And... Your mother?

CAILIN

My parents are divorced.

PAOTR

Oh, ok, I'm sorry. And so far, do you like Shanghai?

CAILIN

Yes, of course... It's really nice. It's a nice city, yeah.

PAOTR stares at the ground a few meters away while CAILIN takes a deep breath and looks at a tree being *agitated by the wind*. Embarrassment is palpable.

CAILIN

It's very windy today, isn't it?

Still focusing on the tree, *the sound of the wind progressively increases as we hear dissonant music*.

FADE TO BLACK, after a few seconds, the *music and the wind stop*.

PAOTR (V.O.)

I think we should go for a walk. Wait for me, I'll take care of the check.

FADE TO:

4. EXT. - SIDEWALK IN WUKANG LU - DAY

PAOTR and CAILIN are walking next to each other. They don't talk to each other and look straight ahead.

PAOTR (to the camera)
I didn't particularly like her. Thought she couldn't make conversation. Still, she was Alec's friend so I had to stay with her for a while, for his sake. We couldn't find much to talk about...

CAILIN (to the camera)
...or any passion that we shared. I didn't like him, but I was going with the flow since I was kind of stuck anyway. Damn Alec! Why did he have to leave us?

CAILIN walks near the road as a fast motorcycle almost hits her. PAOTR holds her, their bodies get closer, he smells the perfume of her hair and feels delighted.

PAOTR
Are you ok?

CAILIN (confused)
Sorry. Oh, thank you. I was completely lost in thought. I must look so silly.

They start walking again, looking straight ahead, like robots. They walk past the house of the Chinese author Ba Jin. They both look at it, deeply affected by this view. CAILIN stops as a tear rolls down her cheek.

CAILIN
Is this where Ba Jin used to live? Cause he is my favorite author and...

He takes *Family* by Ba Jin out of his back pocket and shows it to her.

PAOTR
I visited this house during my first week in Shanghai. Ba Jin was my introduction to China and its culture.

CAILIN
Well. I didn't really have the same reasons for loving it personally. I read it more for pleasure than for culture. I loved it because I love being entertained, you know?

CAILIN (CONT'D)

Being able to fly and get lost in another world, another country, another time; another life in a way. I like to break from the monotony of my life.

PAOTR

Monotony?

She *exhales* deeply looking at the sky, watching a *bird taking off*, then stares at him. She is hugely affected by what she is about to say.

CAILIN

Well... I think we should keep walking if we want to get home before midnight.

They both laugh and move on. A melancholic music played by a piano is heard.

CAILIN

I don't feel like my life is great enough for me to exist. Know? When I read all those books and see all those heroes having fantastic adventures and living crazy yet hard experiences, I wonder why this can't happen to me? Why can't I be a novel character myself in the life I lead?

PAOTR

Being a novel character involves living in a novel, not in real life. We all have huge disappointments in life. I also don't like the life I lead and wish it could get better with time. But I guess we don't master those things.

The music stops.

CAILIN

What are your disappointments?

He laughs sadly, looks at the sky. Focus on a cloud moving, slightly dissimulated by the leaves of a tree. *The sound of the wind is heard again*. They walk without a word.

PAOTR (V.O.)

My greatest disappointment is myself. I hate myself and the person I've become.

CAILIN (V.O.)

Why are you so hard with yourself?

CLOSE ON PAOTR's face.

PAOTR

Because I cannot be myself without feeling that everything about me is wrong. If everybody thinks I'm arrogant and self-centered, it's... It's only because I'm trying to show another me than the me I really am. A me that would have no flaws. A me that would be admirable in all ways. Kind of a novel character, but the one you love because he is perfect, courageous, strong and...

He looks for this last word and *snaps his fingers* to try to remember it. He stops, looks at CAILIN and confidently stops her and kisses her in a movie character's manner.

BACK TO:

5. EXT. - SIDEWALK IN WUKANG LU - DAY

CLOSE ON PAOTR's face. We understand that the kiss was only a fantasy and are back just before it. The *snaps* of PAOTR stop.

PAOTR

...and is still himself.

They look at each other, smile. PAOTR caresses her face. Their noses get closer, their lips almost touch, they close their eyes and start kissing. An entertaining melody is heard.

ALEC (V.O.)

I nailed it. They had both shown who they really were. There's no point in living if you don't accept yourself the way you are. My happiness was complete when I saw them embrace each other the next day. I knew they would never have done such if they

ALEC (V.O.) (CONT'D)
didn't see in the other a way to progress
(*Pause*) in the art of living.

The music fades to a violent urban music illustrating youth as
we see the trees blown by the wind and the clouds moving
tragically.

#2

The Stall

Written by Jack Wu

LETTER OF INTENTION

When we talk about "Love", love between couples, friends and among families is the most common expression of "love" we can think about. Few people pay attention to the "December Heartbeat" for the elderly. Especially in Chinese Culture, people should live in widowhood if their partners pass away. However, in Shanghai, people become more open-minded and pay more attention to one another. Zhao Yongming's daughter wishes him to find a new wife, which is a kind of love. And, in this daily market in Shanghai, Zhao Yongming is able to express his love and find the one he is looking for, Feng Shuzhen.

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All the dialogues are in Chinese.

1. EXT - MARKET, SHANGHAI - DAY

An overlook of the market; mid-shots of market hawkers. CLOSE UP on the fishes and goods.

CUT TO:

ANGLE ON ZHAO YONGMING, a 68-year-old man is standing in a corner. Putting down the plastic bags. Looking at a small list in his hand. Taking his glasses out of his jacket, putting them on and adjusting them to try to figure out what is written on the list.

ZHAO YONGMING

Knowing I have presbyopia, she wrote the words so small.

C.U. ON ZHAO YONGMING - Taking out a cell phone for the elderly and a number directory.

CUT TO:

C.U. ON THE CELL PHONE - ZHAO YONGMING is looking his daughter's number. The names in the directory are blurred because of his presbyopia.

C.U. ON ZHAO YONGMING squinting his eyes and putting the phone back in his pocket; he is now looking for somebody who can help him figure out the content of the list. He finds FENG SHUZHEN, a 62-year-old lady, standing in front of a stall.

CUT TO:

FENG SHUZHEN is standing in front of a stall looking for change to pay for groceries. ZHAO YONGMING walks towards her.

ZHAO YONGMING

Hi, beautiful lady.

MID SHOT OF THE TWO OLD PEOPLE - FENG SHUZHEN turns to the old man and take a glance at him.

FENG SHUZHEN

Who are you? Can I consider this as an harassment?

FENG SHUZHEN does not stop looking for change in her purse.

ZHAO YONGMING

Excuse me. My daughter gave me this shopping list, can you help me read it? You know, I have presbyopia. We old guys always face such problems.

FENG SHUZHEN

All right. Show me the list. By the way, I am not old.

FENG SHUZHEN puts the list far away, squints her eyes and tries to figure out the hand writing.

FENG SHUZHEN

Carp "X" 1.

C.U. ON ZHAO YONGMING taking off his glasses and cleaning them.

ZHAO YONGMING

That's the product sign, not an "X".

The two old people smile and gaze at each other.

FENG SHUZHEN

Then go! Stop gazing at me. Carps are there.

FENG SHUZHEN turns around, holding her bags tightly.

ZHAO YONGMING and FENG SHUZHEN go to the stall for carp together. Wandering and rambling around the market.

MONTAGE of two people's shopping. ZHAO YONGMING follows FENG SHUZHEN to buy groceries, and sometimes FENG SHUZHEN follows ZHAO YONGMING.

C.U. ON ZHAO YONGMING negotiating the price with the hawkers.

C.U. ON FENG SHUZHEN crouching down and staring at the crabs in a basin. The crabs are fighting. There is a weaker crab.

FENG SHUZHEN

Hey! How can you bully the poor?!

C.U. ON THE CRABS - FENG SHUZHEN uses the scallions she bought to help the weaker crab hit the other crab, and prevent the weaker one from being attacked.

C.U. ON ZHAO YONGMING looking at FENG SHUZHEN and smiling.

ZHAO YONGMING

Let's go. My fish is ready. Come and help me to see what's next on the list.

MID SHOT OF THE TWO PEOPLE - FENG SHUZHEN continues on helping the crab. ZHAO YONGMING adjusts his glasses to try to read the list.

ZHAO YONGMING

Come on!

ZHAO YONGMING turns towards FENG SHUZHEN.

FENG SHUZHEN

Help me standing up! My old waist. Oh...

FENG SHUZHEN hits the crab a last time. ZHAO YONGMING helps FENG SHUZHEN standing up. He shows her the list.

C.U. ON FENG SHUZHEN putting the list far away, squinting her eyes and trying to figure out the hand writing.

C.U. ON THE LIST.

FENG SHUZHEN (V.O.)

(Reading the list)

An adorable old lady who can keep your company.

C.U. ON THE TWO PEOPLE - ZHAO YONGMING blushes and gazes at FENG SHUZHEN.

ZHAO YONGMING

What?

FENG SHUZHEN

This is harassment!

(Smile)

An adorable old lady who can keep your company.

(Smile, again)

ZHAO YONGMING blushes and avoids FENG's eyes.

ZHAO YONGMING

My daughter... Oh... She always...

FENG SHUZHEN gazes at ZHAO YONGMING, holding the bags tightly and blushing.

C.U. ON THE TWO PEOPLE - FENG SHUZHEN and ZHAO YONGMING smile happily.

#1

The Magnolias

Written by Jenell Zhu & Yuan Zhuang

LETTER OF INTENTION

Coincidentally, magnolias are sent to the wrong person, but it brings the last warmth, hope and love to a lonely old lady, making her reach the end of her life peacefully. The story mainly shows the unwitting warmth hidden in our city corners, and the special meaning of Magnolias for older generations of Shanghainese.

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All the dialogues are in Chinese.

1. EXT. - MAGNOLIA GARDEN, CHONGQING ROAD - DAY

A large amount of Magnolia trees stand on Chongqing Road.

A group of children are playing, an old man is walking and a YOUNG MAN, in a regular suit, has climbed halfway up a magnolia tree, with one hand and his legs holding tightly, while he trying to grab magnolia flowers.

CLOSE ON a gardener pushing a cart and passing by.

GARDENER

Hey, what are you doing?

The YOUNG MAN has already picked the flowers and jumps off the tree quickly.

YOUNG MAN

Ouch!

He falls on the ground, GARDENER walks up to him.

GARDENER

Hey!

The YOUNG MAN suddenly stands up and runs away.

2. EXT. - NURSING HOME - DAY

The YOUNG MAN stands at the old gate with his magnolias. He looks up with a confused expression.

CUT TO the name on the door -- Jingan Nursing Home.

3. INT. - NURSING HOME - DAY

The YOUNG MAN wanders in the corridors, and suddenly pauses in front of Room #37.

IN HIS POV - In a dark and desolate environment, an OLD LADY is lying on a bed, lonely and lifeless...

He calms himself down, takes a deep breath and walks in.

4. INT. - NURSING HOME, ROOM #37 - DAY

YOUNG MAN

Good afternoon, Madam. Mr. Wang is in a meeting and he asked me to take these to you.

There is no reply.

IN HIS POV - OLD LADY looks like dead.

YOUNG MAN (CONT'D)

(Without much conviction)

OK, Madam. I think you may need a rest.
So... let me, let me...

CUT TO a hand grabbing the YOUNG MAN's arm.

The OLD LADY slowly sits up, staring at him blankly. Suddenly, a smile appears on her face. She takes the magnolias and smells them vigorously and happily.

OLD LADY

(Excited)

Magnolias, my favorites!

YOUNG MAN

Oh, oh, yes. Mr. Wang said these are your favorites.

OLD LADY grabs his hand tightly.

OLD LADY

(Ignoring what he just said)

I knew you would come to pick me up with my favorite flowers. You did it. You kept your promise. You look as young as ever and, how about me? Am I still pretty enough?

YOUNG MAN

(Surprised)

Oh... oh... yes.

OLD LADY still grabbing his hand, enjoys the flowers.

OLD LADY

Do you remember the first time you sent me magnolias? I was 18, and you called me "Miss Magnolia". You said that I was important to you, just as magnolias were important to Shanghai.

Here comes a new text message on his phone.

YOUNG MAN

Excuse me...

CUT TO the screen of the phone.

MR. WANG

(On screen)

Sorry, my grandma's room has changed to #43 this morning.

YOUNG MAN

Damn!

OLD LADY

What, honey?

YOUNG MAN

Oh, sorry, I have to leave right away.

OLD LADY

With me?

YOUNG MAN

Maybe later, you can take a short rest first.

He helps the OLD LADY to lie down carefully and opens the curtains. The sun shines in.

YOUNG MAN

Ah, what a lovely afternoon! Enjoy the sunshine!

OLD LADY

Oh yes, and with the magnolias.

YOUNG MAN

Yes, with the magnolias.

The OLD LADY closes her eyes, with a smile. The YOUNG MAN goes leaves the room.

5. EXT. - AVENUE - DAY

The YOUNG MAN runs out of the nursing home in search of the nearest flower shop that sells magnolias. However, he fails to find any.

YOUNG MAN

No way!

He runs away and disappears.

6. EXT. - MAGNOLIA GARDEN, CHONGQING ROAD - DAY

YOUNG MAN rushes into the garden, and sees the gardener coming head on.

GARDENER

Hey, see you again!

The YOUNG MAN stops, says nothing, he is embarrassed, and all sweaty after the run. He can barely catch his breath.

GARDENER

Coming for magnolias?

YOUNG MAN nods, the GARDENER marks a pause, then he picks some magnolia branches from the cart and gives them to him.

GARDENER

When I pruned the trees, they fell down
and you can take them, but don't do these
stupid things again.

CUT TO a big smile when the YOUNG MAN takes the flowers from the GARDENER in haste and hurries away.

7. EXT. - NURSING HOME - DAY

The YOUNG MAN stands in front of the nursing home, holding a bunch of magnolias again. He enters.

8. INT. - NURSING HOME - DAY

Holding the flowers, he walks through the corridors and passes by the Room #37 in a hurry. He comes back to the room, pauses at the door and stares at the OLD LADY.

OVER HIS SHOULDER - We see the OLD LADY, her eyes are closed, she smiles just like before.

The YOUNG MAN keeps walking towards Room #43 with satisfaction.

CUT TO and PUSH IN towards the OLD LADY lying on her bed, she holds the magnolias with a peaceful smile.

CUT TO a report at the end of the bed with the name of the woman: ZHOU YULAN (meaning magnolia in Chinese).

PULL BACK - We see the OLD LADY bathing the Holy Light of the afternoon, she is forever at peace.